

The Quest

April, 1992 — Vol. 11, No. 4

Alive
at
125

Allison & Hallam Avenues

Washington School District

Washington, Pa. 15301-6994

The Fourth Quarter Century

1942-1967

World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam deterred the progress of the world during this era, yet for Washington High School, it was a time of firsts, achievements, and progress. Marked firsts were: Student Council, Booster Club, Dance Band, Drivers' Training, Student Court, Senior Recognition, College Night, Honor Roll System, Foreign Language laboratory, and Girls' Tennis team. Washington High School football, basketball and wrestling teams posted fantastic finishes. The high school building took on a new look with the additions of the cafeteria and new classrooms on the Jefferson Avenue side of the structure. This time period also celebrated the largest graduating class, as well as the end of thirty-year tenures of the Superintendent and high school principal. As the world changed, grew, and prospered, so too did Washington High School during its fourth quarter century.

1943-48

The first meeting of Washington High School's maiden Student Council was convened on Wednesday, September 15, 1943 with the installation of officers:

Joseph Falvo - President
Vernon Riegal - Vice President
Saranne Weiner - Treasurer

The Girl Reserves Club sold \$15,020 in stamps and bonds which was donated to the war effort. Even though student enrollment had reached 1,705 by this time, twenty-two students and six faculty members joined the armed forces to fight the Axis Powers in World War II:

Faculty members who served were:
Lt. R.E. Boyles - High School Principal

Clerk Irvin J. Shutsky - Commercial Department

Lt. William McGlumphy - Geography

Ensign Irvin T. Robinson - Commercial Department

Staff Sgt. Michael Luft

Students who joined the armed forces were:

Jack Larkin - '45
Thomas Erhardt - '44
Charles Bails - '44
Harry Gasper - '44
John Syrek - '43
Mike Ward - '44
Robert Baker - '44
William Rutan - '44
Kenneth Sargent - '43
Pete Politis - '43
Clayton Failing - '44
Robert Warnick - '44
Stanley Yaros - '44
Edward McKahn - '44
Robert Manis - '43
Thomas Guest - '44
Robert Linn - '44
John Apache - '44
William Gredesky - '43
Alvin Huffman - '43
Modesto Trappuzano - '43
George Fiorletti - '44

The war not only brought to the fore patriots like these listed above who left the safety of their homes to fight national enemies, but also it was the impetus for the formation of a whole new method of communication.

"HEP TO THE JIVE"

SQUADRON - The gang
BOMBER - Terrific girl
NIGHT MANEUVERS - P. M. dates
ATTACK - Ask for a date
ZERO HOUR - Date time
DOUBLE FEATURE - Date with 2

boys

DELAYED ACTION BOMB - Girl who's always late.

SHOVE OFF, SAILOR, I'M CONVOYING THIS SHIP - May I cut in?

LET'S UP ANCHOR - Let's leave
COMING IN ON A WING AND A PRAYER - Coming home from a "Dippy" date.

A year later, in 1944, Washington High School won the Section 2 Basketball Championship by defeating Burgettstown 26-23.

In December, 1944, when most young people were looking for ideals from somewhere other than battle

heroes, Washington High School students were nominating their peers for their "ideal" traits.

IDEAL GIRL

Hair - Evonne Harvey
Clothes - Marjorie Palmer
Eyes - Norma Noble
Personality - Saranne Weiner
Figure - Jean Wines
Complexion - Helen Dubelle
Posture - Caryl Lou Reynolds
Hands - Lois Peacock

IDEAL BOY

Hair - Joe Nicolella
Eyes - Joe Bendot
Clothes - Tommy Joswick
Personality - Jim Rocco
Physique - Bill Barron
Hands - Jim Lightner



HOMER LOWRY



SHELDON KELLY

Administrative changes took place in October, 1945, at Washington High School when Homer Lowry was appointed principal, and Sheldon Kelly was named as his assistant.

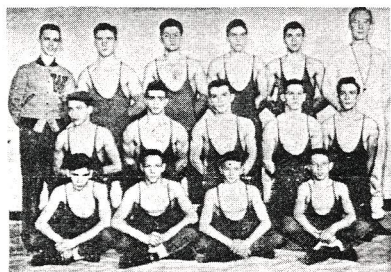
Two years later in December, 1947, Dr. Harry M. Cohen organized Washington High School's first Booster Club to revitalize the spirit of the community and our students.

The spring of 1948 celebrated two anniversaries — number thirteen for May Queens and the twentieth of the Washington High School Band.

The thirteen May Queens, since 1936 were:

Marion Baringer - 1936
Martha McGraw - 1937
Helen Baumgardner - 1938
Mary Ellen Laungenbacher - 1939
Peggy Eazon - 1940
Betty Ann Johnson - 1941
Nora Mae Kelly - 1942
Clea Andrews - 1943
Alice Johnston - 1944
Helen Dubelle - 1945
Noretta Eustis - 1946
May Louis Boyd - 1947
Ruth Burrell - 1948

On April 12, 1948, the 20th Anniversary celebration of Washington High School's band was held at the George Washington Hotel with Lee Barrett's Orchestra providing the dance music. William Yard, class of 1930, was the principal speaker, and Bill Brant, class of 1943, announcer at K D K A, was the Master of Ceremonies.



1948-49 WRESTLING TEAM

1949 - 1954

By February, 1949, Washington High School's wrestling team was undefeated and untied in 24 consecutive matches under the coaching of Dr. William A. Harris. Members of that team were: Carey Polan, Bud King, Laurence Ianni, Albert Ianni, Clyde Young, Donald Zenner, Alfred Interval, Carl Wilson, Donald Young, Harold Miller, Ronald Bell, Ralph Thompson, Richard Wilson, and Regis Innis.

A month later in March, the "Melody Kings," the first high school dance band was organized because of the idea of Ted Hammers. Terry

Syrek was the director of the fourteen-piece, non-union, non-profit organization which played only at school affairs at Washington and Trinity High schools. Orchestrations and electrical equipment were funded through the auspices of the Student Council, and Jay Luft assisted band members in making the stands. Members of the "Melody Kings" were: Ted Hammers, Terry Syrek, Bob King, Bill Ruschel, John Morris, Jack McClellan, Joe Rotunda, and George Barnes. There were also three members of the band who were Trinity High School students who participated.

A Washington High School alumnus wrestler received national fame on April 1, 1950. Tony, "Babe," Gizoni, 1948 graduate and Waynesburg College sophomore was crowned National Champion of the 121 pound weight class at Cedar Falls, Iowa. For three years "Babe" Gizoni won W.P.I.A.L. and P.I.A.A. championships in the 95, 103, and 112 pound categories.

"Learn today and live tomorrow," was the motto of the driving school begun at Washington High School for the 1950-51 academic year. The premier class, taught by Mr. Petrone, consisted of 24 seniors, in eight groups of three, who met daily. Practical driving instruction was provided to the young people every other day. The instructional vehicle, a dual-control Plymouth was furnished by Guy Woodward through the support of A.A.A.

Washington High School saw double trouble during this same year, for there was a record number of eleven sets of twins in attendance in grades eight through twelve:

Arlene and Eileen Martin
Donald and Ronald Presto
Frank and Fred Bunner
Shirley and Johnny Collar
Rita and Ronnie Fiorletta
Barbara and Robert Griffin
Emma and Thermie McNeal
John and David Houston
June and Jan Koontz
Dick and Jack Selevary
Suzetta and Georgia Morris

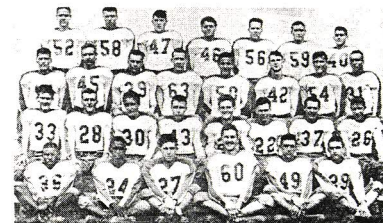
The 1952 basketball season was the best season in history, for the team was undefeated. The starting five coached by Bill Laughlin were: Riser, Amos, Steratore, Jones and Grinage.



TOM DIAMOND

Spring was a very good season for another favorite son to achieve success. Tom Diamond won the state championship in wrestling in the 145 pound weight class. A *Little President* interview uncovered facts that he also played football, and when he was not training for his two sports, Tom Diamond liked to go to the movies with his best girl, Bonnie Barr, whom he eventually married. Bonnie Barr is now Bonnie Diamond, our District's Activities secretary today.

Frank Bonus became the new Student Council President in the fall of the 1952-53 academic year, and the clubs numbered eight: Sketch and Craft, Sorores, Science, Go To College, Key, Student Operator Staff, "W," and a new one was added — Teen Age Book Club. This organization enabled students to buy a book a month at a low cost to encourage reading.



Football successes have always been a tradition at Washington High School, and the 1952 season carried on its winning ways, for the team had a perfect season. Members of the team were:

John Collar	Pete Celani
James Dean	Joe Roggerio
Don Connelly	Bernard Porto
Richard Presto	Richard McVay
Jan Koontz	Robert Haines
James Holston	James Hoy
Mike DiSiderio	Anthony Cornetti
Joe Comfort	Donald DeSarro
Campbell Stephens	Claude Geary

Frank Bonus James Ward
 Richard Crowe Pete George
 Bob DeRose James Simon
 William Braner Dominic Sacco
 John Celani Richard Jackman
 John Marsh

Another wrestling success was achieved when Nick Petronka distinguished himself and Washington High School in March of 1953 by winning the Wrestling State Championship in the 133 pound weight class.

The next fall - 1953 - was a year of celebrating the 25th Anniversary of *The Little President* newspaper. When the paper began in September of 1929, Miss McCabe was the supervisor, and it had a circulation of 250. The 1953 newspaper had a readership of 700, and was staffed by: Lee Richmond - Editor-in-Chief, Maureen Paustenback - Assignment Editor, Robert Robertson - Co-Sports Editor, and Charles Wilson - Co-Sports Editor. Miss Bryson was the advisor of the twenty-fifth anniversary publication year.

Another anniversary occurred that year, celebrating the tenth year of the Washington High School Student Council. The first president, Joe Falvo, was the guest speaker at the fete, while James Hoy, immediate past president served as Master of Ceremonies, installing the 1953 officers: Frank Bunner, Eleanor Capo, Maureen Paustenback, and Nick Petronka.

Washington High School's first Student Court was in session in January, 1954, when Nick Petronka, Student Council Vice President, raised the gavel for the first time. It was the organization's constitutional duty to try any student accused of breaking school rules and regulations. There were five members of the court, with Petronka serving as President Judge. Miss Lena Lively and Mr. Earnest Eros were faculty representatives, while Shirley Collar and Richard Celani served as student members of the court.

The court, with Principal Lowry's approval, had constitutional powers to execute any punishment which it felt appropriate for the individual misdemeanor. The Student Council issued these rules and regulations for the Student Court to enforce:

- 1) No smoking in the building or school area.
- 2) No profanity in and about the school.
- 3) No reckless driving within the school area.
- 4) No misuse of school fountains.
- 5) No disorderly conduct in or about the school.
- 6) Garbage disposed of properly.

7) Bottles to be returned to the lunchroom.

8) No writing on walls, etc.

9) Hall traffic and safety rules as established.

10) Locker regulations as established.

Nick Petronka continued his winning ways in the spring of 1954 by repeating as a State Wrestling Champion, but in the 138 pound weight class.

1955 - 1960

The annual Y-Teen Sweetheart was held on February 12, 1955 at the local Y.W.C.A., with Bob Vinton (father of the famous Rock and Roll Idol) furnishing the dance music. Washington High School candidates were nominated by their individual clubs on the basis of: personality, good grooming, neatness, and beauty. The young ladies nominated from Washington High School were:

Evelyn Mahramus - Center - 12th grade.

Nancy Elliot - Upper right - 11th grade.

Mary Ann Osso - Upper left - 10th grade.

Becky Belcastro - Lower left - 9th grade.

Linda Sorice - Lower right - 8th grade (Now Mrs. Jane Bennett - Science Teacher).



Vaughn Monroe — world famous popular singer — performed at Washington High School on March 22, 1956 during a special assembly. He not only sang many of his hit songs — "Racing with the Moon," but also he joined the Senior Ensemble which sang *Oklahoma*.

Senior recognition was held for the first time that spring on May 25, 1956. Senior advisors, Eliza Grable and Gaylord Hartman supervised the Junior Move-up Program. Speakers who participated in the debut program, which has continued for the past thirty-six years, were advisors of the various high school organiza-

tions. They recognized senior students for their participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular programs.

The 1956-57 school year's fiscal condition was stable, and spending and receipts totalled over one million dollars:

RECEIPTS FOR 1956-57

Local Property Taxes	\$470,288.00
Earned Income Taxes	\$110,000.00
Delinquent Taxes	\$ 32,000.00
State Reimbursements	\$512,000.00
Tuition & Misc.	\$ 30,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,154,288.00

EXPENDITURES FOR 1956-57

General Control	\$ 36,000.00
Instruction	\$776,000.00
Libraries & Medical Services	\$ 25,000.00
Operation of Plant	\$111,000.00
Maintenance of Plant	\$ 30,000.00
Fixed Charges	
(Insur. & Retire.)	\$ 60,000.00
Debt Service	
(Current bonds)	\$115,000.00
Capital Outlay	\$ 10,000.00
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	\$1,163,000.00

STAFF

Certified Personnel

- 2 - Doctor's Degrees
- 35 - Master's Degrees
- 60 - Bachelor's Degrees
- 57 - Other Certificates or Degrees
- 154 - Total Certified

Other Personnel

- 20 - Custodians
- 8 - Secretaries
- 5 - Medical Dept. (Dr., Dentists, Nurses)
- 1 - Board Secretary
- 6 - Others
- 40 - Other Personnel

Total enrollment of Washington School District was 3,583, including 63 tuition pupils. In 1957 approximately 20% of Washington High School graduates attended colleges or universities.

Pressing needs enumerated during that year were:

- A. Cafeteria at Junior-Senior High
- B. Expansion of many existing facilities

- C. Replacement of antiquated heating, ventilating, and lighting

- D. Assurance of pupils having proper health and physical education facilities at all levels of education.

The Go-To-College Club sponsored the first College Night on November, 1957, at 7:30 p.m. in the Washington High School Auditorium. The purpose of this event was to give interested students a chance to meet with representatives of several col-

leges and to ask any questions that they might have concerning college life.

The colleges which were represented at the first annual College Night were: Bethany, Carnegie Tech (now C.M.U.), Chatham, Indiana State, Lehigh, Mason Frederick Beauty Culture School, Penn State, Penn Commercial, Washington and Jefferson, and Washington Hospital School of Nursing.

Dr. P.J. Proudfit, member of the staff of Washington Hospital, presented the Key Note speech, entitled, "Why Go to College?"

Students of Washington High School listed their Top Tunes that year as:

1. "You Send Me"
2. "Little Bitty Pretty One"
3. "Silhouette"
4. "April Love"
5. "My Special Angel"
6. "Wake Up Little Suzie"
7. "Raunchy"
8. "Chances Are"
9. "Why Don't They Understand?"
10. "Peggy Sue"

The Washington Teacher's Association established, in March of 1958, 4-year scholarship of \$500 annually to a worthy and needy student of Washington High School who was interested in a career in teaching. The scholarship was administered by a committee of Washington Teachers' Association members, appointed by the president as follows: Superintendent of Schools, Principal of the high school, Guidance Department member, a high school classroom teacher, an elementary classroom teacher, and an elementary school principal.

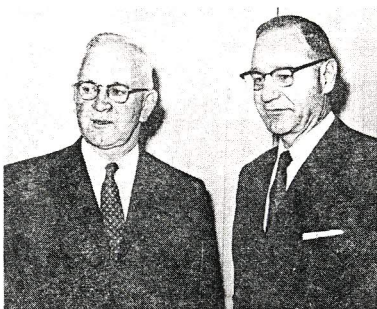
Successful students have always been the major source of pride for Washington High School. Peggy Schaffer was selected to represent Washington High School at the State Chorus Festival in Oxford, Pa. in March, 1958. Dorothy Ermacoff was named "The Betty Crocker Home-maker of Tomorrow" in Washington High School, receiving the highest score in a written examination.

The Bausch and Lomb Science Award was won by Harold Frazer for the best record in science studies his senior year. And, in April, 1958, William Kelley won first prize in the School Science Fair sponsored by Buhl Planetarium and radio and television stations. Other Washington High entrants were: Paul Bert, Louis DiBello, and Jerry Marino.

This was also the year that *The Little President* was rated excellent and received a Second Honor's Award for excellence in Journalism at the 1958 High School Student Publications In-

stitute, sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh. Washington High School students who attended the clinic were: Brenda Siegel, Sharon Christ, Cindy Jones, Elizabeth Plumer, Peggy Schaffer, Joyce Smithson, Betty Ogurchak, and Robert Campbell who was the advisor.

The 1958-59 academic year was a time for many successes and failures. One of the major successes was that Louis DiBello and William Kelley were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition that year. The bond issue for the new school cafeteria and school improvements was defeated on November 4, 1958. The Ben Franklin Guild, a printing club, was created this year. The aim of the Guild was to serve the school, to teach the basic fundamentals of printing, and ultimately to cut down the cost of printing for the organizations of the school. Officers for the organization were: John King - President, Chuck Mawhinney - Vice President, Jim Soltez - Secretary, and Larry Laurine - Treasurer. Rudolph Stolfer was the advisor.



Pictured above are retiring Principal, Homer M. Lowry (left), and his successor, Emil F. Dupke (right), discussing school problems.

The major news of the year was that after twenty-six years of being with the Washington School District — twelve as a teacher and fourteen years as a principal — Homer M. Lowry resigned his duties on January 23, 1959.

"I have never been sick, never missed a day, and have never been tardy since I came to Washington High School in 1945, he stated.

Emil F. Dupke was appointed as a replacement to Mr. Lowry, beginning his duties on January 26, 1959. Mr. Dupke came to Washington High School in 1950 as football coach.

Dupke's plans for the high school were to establish more clubs, to have Student Council to create more activities, and "To have a general upgrading of the high school to meet the challenge of our modern age. It is my hope that each department and

activity of the school will be the best we can possibly have. In short, to make Washington High School, if not the best, one of the best in the Commonwealth of Pa." Dupke explained.

A tentative schedule of classes for the 1959-60 school term was accepted by the Board of Directors on May 21, 1959. The proposed plan included a basic six-period day, with an additional period at noon for pupils who needed a 7th period. An eighth period was put into effect from 3:15 to 4:00 p.m., which provided: time for absence make-up work, time for individual instruction, time for disciplinary instruction, time for disciplinary action by teachers, time for guidance interviews, time for faculty meetings, time for in-service training, time for student activities, time for athletic teams to practice, and time for teachers to do clerical work.

The lunch period was lengthened from noon to 1:30 p.m., and the tentative time for the basic six-period day was from 8:30 to 3:15.

Mr. Dupke explained that the 8th period was voluntary for pupils; however, all teachers were required to remain in the building until 4:00 p.m.

A new honor roll system was instituted for the 1959-1960 academic year. The following requirements were necessary:

A student must carry a minimum of 4 major subjects to qualify.

A student carrying only 4 major subjects must have earned an "H" in all four majors. He must have no less than an "S" in any one minor subject.

A student carrying 5 major subjects must have at least 4 - "H's" and one "S." He must have no less than "S" in any minor subject.

A student carrying 6 major subjects must have 4 - "H's" and 2 - "S's" in his subjects. He must have no less than "S" in any minor subject.

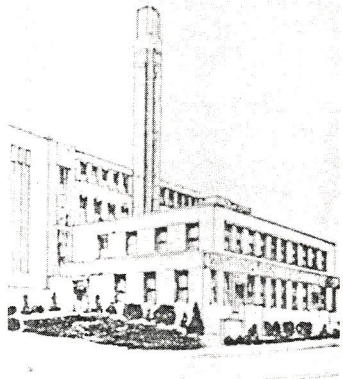
In November, a survey of the 1959 graduates uncovered that 93 or 43 percent of the 215 June graduates were attending business colleges, teachers' colleges, nurse's training, and other schools of advanced training. Sixteen were in the armed services; ten girls who took commercial classes worked in offices, and 35 stayed at home.

This was also the year that a modern language laboratory was installed in room 409. There were four student positions, containing tape recorders, earphones, and one master console where the instructor talked to the student and vice-versa. The new language laboratory was to be used by the six classes of French, German, and Spanish.

1960-1967

Hayden Ivan Lipp, Washington High School senior, was presented with a First Achievement Award by the National Council of Teachers of English on January 10, 1960. Lipp and David Perry were selected to enter this contest the previous year by a group of W.H.S. English teachers.

Hayden wrote a science fiction short story and an autobiography as his entry for the contest. He was one of more than 5,000 juniors who entered the contest. There were 800 first and runner-up awards given, thirty of which were received by students in Pennsylvania.



The 1960-61 school year was filled with hope and excitement, because the Washington School Board met on Thursday, November 17, 1960, and passed a resolution notifying the State Department of Public Instruction that the board planned to build immediately a new addition at Washington High, which included a cafeteria, shops, and other facilities to bring departments up to standard.

The Board acted to take advantage of reimbursement by the state of up to 42%. The entire high school building was to be renovated with modern lighting fixtures.

The addition was located on the Jefferson Avenue side of the building. The cafeteria was designed to serve 3 shifts of 450 each, allowing 30 minutes for all students to eat and another hour for additional classes.

One year later, Washington High School opened the 1961-62 year with a total enrollment of 1,499 students.

A revised grading system was adopted for this year:

A-Superior - indicates more than required work characterized by accuracy, neatness, skillful organization, and thorough understanding.

B-Above Average - indicates more than required work, characterized by careful preparation.

C-Average - indicates that the required work has been completed, but there is room for improvement through careful preparation and presentation.

D-Below Average - the lowest passing mark.

F - Not passing.



Dr. Meyers B. Horner, retiring Superintendent of City Schools was honored at an assembly held October 31, 1961, with the establishment of the Meyers B. Horner Scholarship Award in appreciation for his lifetime service to youth and personal activity in education. The purpose of this scholarship was to promote international understanding, cooperation, and friendship through a student exchange program.

Dr. Horner had been superintendent of Washington School District since 1930. His successor, Dr. Glenn C. Hess, received his B.S. at Indiana State, his M.Ed. at Pittsburgh, and his D.Ed. at the University of Pittsburgh.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration presented a space-science lecture demonstration at Washington High School on January 17, 1963, with John Bartram and Frank Lucarelli representing N.A.S.A.

Bartram and Lucarelli explained the origin and development of the rocket. Models of the following space projects were shown to the assembly:

Mercury - manned capsule to learn effects of space on man.

Gemini - two-man flight, experimenting with link-up.

Apollo - 3 moon landings

Surveyor, Ranger, and Prospector - unmanned explorations

Voyager and Mariner - unmanned explorations to other planets.

Tiros, Nimbus, and Auros - weather satellite program

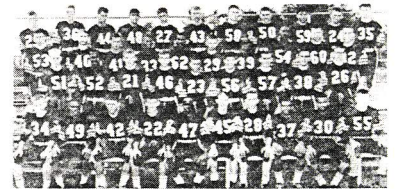
Echo, Rebound, and Telstar - communications satellites.

Washington High School was to be evaluated by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1964, so that the faculty had to prepare a self-evaluation study in 1963. Members of the Steering Committee who worked on the self-evaluation were: Helen Bromley, Jean Robinson, Sheldon Kelley - Vice Chairman, and Emil Dupke - Chairman. Dr. Glenn Hess served as Ex Officio.



On Tuesday, March 5, 1963, at 11:30 a.m., a brief ground-breaking ceremony was held to celebrate a million-dollar-plus wing which was constructed on the Jefferson Avenue side of the building.

Classes were interrupted to witness the following student and school officials perform the ceremony: Heston M. Hill - School Board President, John Bruno - Plumbing Contractor, C. Carey Dickson - Architect, A. W. T. Strott - School Board Secretary, C. O. Ashbaugh - School Director, Homer Lowry - former High School Principal, Patti Burk - Student Council Secretary, Sharyn McCausland - Student Council Treasurer, Richard Nevin - Faculty, Kenneth Schott - Student Council President, Giles Driscoll - Washington Engineering and Construction, Emil F. Dupke - Principal, and Dr. Glenn Hess - Superintendent.



The 1963 football team posted a perfect 9-0 season this fall, eleven years after the last perfect season had been won. Three boys of this team were selected to the All-Conference Team: Norris Vactor, "Piggy" Wise, and Lloyd Booker. Vactor was also named to the All-W.P.I.A.L. team.

The offensive line of the 1963 Little President team consisted of Tom Stock, Mike Rosmus, Harold McMullen, Dan Popeck, Nick Zullo, John Kestner, D.D. Potts, and Fred Lindburg.

The backfield members were: Frank Vactor, Lloyd Booker, Norris Vactor, "Piggy" Wise, and John Kazarick.

The defense consisted of: Bill Miles, Bob Ponton, Dave Reihner, J.D. Anderson, Joe Caruso, D.D. Potts, Dan Popeck, Butch Kissell, "Piggy" Wise, Lloyd Booker, Norris Vactor, Frank Vactor, and Emmett Henderson.

Pat Steratore was the kicker who helped the team to win over: South Hills Catholic, Erie East, Chartiers Valley, Uniontown, Mt. Lebanon, Canon-McMillan, Trinity, Munhall, and Baldwin.

The following spring of 1964 was

when Steve Mesko, 102 pound wrestler of Washington High School finished the 1963-64 season undefeated.

Girls' tennis was begun with Mr. Weaver as the advisor-coach. Members of the maiden girls' tennis team were: Susan Fisher, Sherry Droz, Susan Mayor, Carol Lackman, Carol Shoup, Linda King, Bernice Gamber, Jaynie Schneck, Carol Varner, Sandon Holston, Jolinda Giles, Carol Phillips, Cathy Phillips, Bonnie Dulaney, Judy Hammond, Terry Elias, Denis Ruecroft, Karen Griest, Susan Dimmack, Suzie Pinsker, Janice DeStafano, Louis Futak, and Mary Kuhn.

After thirty-seven years of service Paul E. Harding and Sheldon Kelley retired from administrative duties at the close of the 1963-64 school year. Both men joined the faculty at the start of the 1927-28 term.

A year later, the 1965 *Little Prexie Yearbook* received the highest award granted from three of the nation's top scholastic press associations:

All American from National Scholastics Press Association, Medalist from Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

"A+" from National School Yearbook Association.

The largest graduating class of 284 held commencement exercises on June 1, 1966, in the Washington High School auditorium.

The quarter century of 1942 through 1965 was an amazing one for any high school, yet for Washington High School, it was one of growth, change, and prosperity in the face of global turmoil.

A Message From The Superintendent

In the last issue of *The Quest*, I requested your help in determining some of the strengths and weaknesses of the Washington School District, as part of our planning and budgetting process. This request would have provided many individuals with the opportunity to praise and constructively to criticize the system. Nine thousand *Quests* were sent to residents, and another one thousand were distributed to various buildings and businesses. To date, we have received only 15 responses. I thank those individuals who responded with their opinions, but where are the other 9,985 potential responses?

Is this lack of response due to a feeling that residents think that they cannot make a difference or be heard? Is it that residents do not care, which I find hard to believe. Then education can go in any direction it wants — unchecked. If there is a feeling that residents cannot make a difference or be heard, it needs to be voiced. There are opportunities to be heard from the classroom to the boardroom. Few individuals attend the committee or regular board meetings. Throughout the school year, all district business is discussed under the Sunshine Law provisions which insures that deliberations are not to be held in private, for most issues relating to school business. There is a time for public comment and methods for individuals to become part of the meeting agenda. If there is to be another 125 years of history for the Washington School District, there should be more than 15 individuals and nine board

members providing input.

There are many issues facing our students that never faced us during our school years. Our students are living in a much different world which has different expectations for the schools to fulfill. There needs to be discussion of these issues in some form. What is the best way to accomplish this task in a constructive way? There are things that the district would like to hear. There are things that we do not like to hear, but clearly need to hear. It is important in the planning and financing of the program that a clear picture is drawn from all of the school community participants. If *The Quest* is not meeting your needs, I need to know. If regular meetings with the community are needed, this also needs to be indicated. The state has stated that it will provide Washington School District with approximately \$107,162.00 **LESS** than they agreed to last year. Our enrollment is increasing at the rate of nearly 60 new students per year, when most districts are declining. There are major decisions to be made that will impact on all residents, yet few will comment.

To date, the Board has heard about the facilities, and will hear about the status of each program from kindergarten through twelfth grade. This will include various grouping patterns, instructional delivery systems, curriculum revisions, and textbook adoptions. These meetings are open to the public, as they have always been. You have the opportunity to send opinions to us if you so desire, or you can do nothing. I invite you to participate in some fashion that suits you best, but please participate.

Dr. Thomas M. Conner
Superintendent

WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Thomas M. Conner Superintendent - 223-5112
Mr. Douglas Masciola Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent - 223-5014
Mr. Paul Crawford Business Manager - 223-5016
Mr. William Watson Principal High School - 223-5080
Mr. Ronald D. Junko Associate Principal High School - 223-5085
Mrs. Paulette Graham Associate Principal Washington Park Elementary School - 223-5052
Mrs. Jarol DeVoge Associate Principal Washington Park Elementary School - 223-5052
Mr. Dean Casello Associate Principal Washington Park Middle School - 223-5060

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Mr. Dennis Adams
Mr. William C. Braun, Jr.
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Editor — Connie Trelka

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